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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/03558 (22) International Filing Date: 28 October 1999 (28.10.99) (30) Priority Data: 9823446.1 28 October 1998 (28.10.98) GB 9912641.9 28 May 1999 (28.05.99) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ASHBY SCIENTIFIC LTD. [GB/GB]; Unit 11, Atlas Court, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3FL (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FULLER, Jess, Paul [GB/GB]; 41 Denis Street, Hugglescote, Leicestershire LE67 2FP (GB). PEGG, David [GB/GB]; 10 St. Paul's Square, Holgate, York YO24 4BD (GB). BIRD, Robert, McLean [GB/GB]; 75 Victoria Street, Melbourne, Derbyshire DE17 3FR (GB). CLIFFORD, Timothy, Burgess [GB/GB]; 3 Barkby Road, Queniborough, Leicestershire LE7 3FE (GB). CLAYSON, Tony [GB/GB]; 7 Coalville Lane, Ravenstone, Leicestershire LE67 2LR (GB). (74) Agents: KILLIN, Stephen, James et al.; Venner, Shipley & Co., 20 Little Britain, London EC1A 7DH (GB).	(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.	(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 19 October 2000 (19.10.00)
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(54) Title: TEXTURED AND POROUS SILICONE RUBBER

(57) Abstract

A method of making a silicone rubber having a structure adapted for growth of cells or living tissue, which comprises contacting a silicone rubber precursor with a biologically-acceptable sacrificial filler, curing the resultant mixture and removing the sacrificial filler to form a structured silicone rubber.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/AU 99/03558

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61L27/18 A61L29/06 A61L15/26 C12M3/00 C12M3/06 C08J9/26 //C08L83:04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61L C12M C08G A61F C08J A01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>WO 97 08291 A (ASHBY SCIENT LTD ; FULLER JESS PAUL (GB)) 6 March 1997 (1997-03-06)</p> <p>abstract page 1, line 6-9 page 2 -page 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>-/-</p>	<p>1-7, 11, 15, 16, 25, 26, 28-36, 41, 43, 44, 48, 53, 60, 61, 63, 66-68</p>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 July 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 99/03558

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 97 15242 A (SEARE WILLIAM J JR) 1 May 1997 (1997-05-01)	1-7,11, 15,16, 20,21, 24-27, 34-39, 41, 43-51, 53, 60-63, 66, 70-75, 78-81, 83-90, 92-104, 106-121, 123-127, 138-141, 143-145, 150-159
	page 3, line 8-20 page 5, line 12-14 page 9, line 23-35 page 10, line 1-11 page 12, line 33-36 page 13, line 27-29 page 16, line 21-24 page 17, line 15-18 page 19, line 17-23	
Y	WO 97 21347 A (AVECOR CARDIOVASCULAR INC) 19 June 1997 (1997-06-19) cited in the application	1-7,11, 15,16, 20,21, 24-27, 34-39, 41, 43-51, 53, 60-63, 66, 70-75, 78-81, 83-90, 92-104, 106-121
	abstract page 3, line 29 -page 4, line 27 page 6, line 5-18 page 7, line 1-19 page 8, line 11-18 page 10, line 6-12	
Y	EP 0 326 278 A (DOW CORNING KK) 2 August 1989 (1989-08-02) page 2, line 3-6,32-36	123-127
		-/-

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT, LB 99/03558

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 033 355 A (AMUNDSON DAVID CHARLES) 5 July 1977 (1977-07-05) abstract column 2, line 8-17 ---	143-145
Y	EP 0 450 671 A (DUPHAR INT RES) 9 October 1991 (1991-10-09) abstract column 1, line 1-11, 47-51 column 2, line 22,23 column 4, line 39-44 ---	150-156
Y	US 4 377 077 A (GRANLUND DAVID J) 22 March 1983 (1983-03-22) abstract column 4 -column 5 ---	138-141
Y	EP 0 277 009 A (ACCU MED CORP) 3 August 1988 (1988-08-03) abstract column 1, line 37-63 ---	157-159
A	US 5 614 095 A (DEGEN PETER J ET AL) 25 March 1997 (1997-03-25) abstract column 4, line 3-7 ---	128-137
A	WO 97 03744 A (GEMBOLIS DONALD J ;SHANE BRUCE E (US); PARKER HANNIFIN CORP (US)) 6 February 1997 (1997-02-06) abstract page 3, line 7-20 -----	128-137

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte
ional application No.
PCT/GB 99/03558

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 40, 42, 64, 77 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 40,42,64,77

The present application fails to comply with the clarity and conciseness requirements of Article 6 PCT (see also Rule 6.2(a) PCT), that claims (see claims 40,42) shall not rely on references to the description or drawings.

Furthermore should additional fees be paid for the search of the corresponding invention(s), the applicant is informed that claims 64 and 77 are not searchable because they don't comply with the requirement of Article 6 PCT (see also Rule 6.3 (a) PCT). The definition of the matter for which protection is sought shall be in terms of the technical features of the invention, that means, the method of culturing biological material shall be described in the claim.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-43

method for making silicone rubber having a structure adapted for growth of cells or living tissue

- silicone rubber obtained
- biomedical device comprising silicone rubber obtained

2. Claims: 44-77

a) claims 44-69

- culture chamber having one gas permeable wall
- a textured interior growth surface
- apparatus comprising several above culture chambers
- method of culturing microbiological material in a culture chamber or apparatus
- method of carrying out a bioprocessing operation

b) claims 70-77

- a well comprising at least one wall having at least one portion gas-permeable and at least a portion of the interior surface of the wall being structured
- microtitre plate having at least one well as above
- method of culturing microbiological material on a well as above

3. Claims: 78-82

implant device comprising cell support structure having a coating with a textured surface

4. Claims: 83-89

substrate for growth of skin grafts in vitro comprising a flexible membrane having a textured surface
-skin graft grown on substrate

5. Claims: 90-122

a) claims 90-100

- tissue support structure comprising a biocompatible material having an internal system of pores
- apparatus for culturing tissue or cellular agglomerates comprising tissue support structure

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

b) claims 101-115

- artificial implant formed from a material having an internal system of pores

c) claims 116-122

- a cell implant means comprising a porous material for retention of cells to be implanted and a protective means to shield the cells from immune attack after implant

6. Claims: 123-127

drug delivery system comprising a porous material whose pores have been impregnated or saturated with a drug for delivery

7. Claims: 128-137

a filtration media comprising a porous silicone rubber

8. Claims: 138-142

a cell cryopreservation system comprising a porous material for absorbing cell culture into the internal system of pores and a container suitable for storage in liquid nitrogen

9. Claims: 143-149

- electrode comprising porous material having electrically conductive particles dispersed therein
- method of treating sewage using electrode system

10. Claims: 150-156

wound dressing comprising a first layer of a porous gel and a second layer of a carrier gel

11. Claims: 157-161

clinical swab comprising a porous material

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/03558

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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